

REMARKS

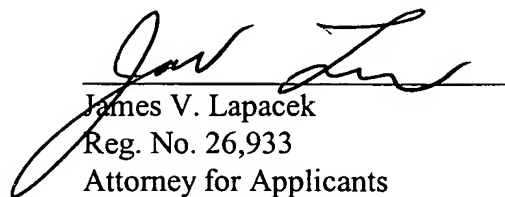
The Examiner is respectfully requested to review this application which has been amended after a careful consideration of the Examiner's comments and the references cited in the above-identified Office Action. In that Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1 and 3-7 as being anticipated by the Flory reference, U.S. 4,361,165. The claims have been amended to more distinctly point out applicants' invention and are now considered to be in allowable form, specifically, claims 1 and 7 have been amended, claim 3 has been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the invention recited therein, and the dependency of claim 4 has been amended.

For example, the subject matter of claim 1 is directed to a pressure relief arrangement for a housing including two housing portions, the pressure relief arrangement comprising a sealing member disposed between the two housing portions, first means for applying compressive sealing force between the two housing portions, and second means operative with the first means and independent of the sealing member such that the first means applies the compressive sealing force between the two housing portions solely through the second means for responding to overpressure within the housing, the second means comprising at least one disc-shaped member being loaded in shear and becoming disintegral in response to the overpressure exceeding a predetermined value, the disc-shaped member having predetermined circumferentially arranged portions of reduced cross section. This arrangement is neither disclosed nor suggested by the prior art including the Flory reference. The Flory reference merely discloses studs having a head and uniform cross section and do not suggest rupture disc members. Certainly the shearing of a uniform cross-section stud section and rupture disc members having predetermined circumferentially arranged portions of reduced cross section are not suggestive of each other in the art. The head portion of the stud 52 in Flory does not perform any function in the structure other than retaining the stud 52. Further, concerning claims 4 and 5, the Flory reference does not focus any forces as force is merely transmitted generally to the stud 52. Similarly, concerning claim 6, Flory neither discloses nor suggests any alignment structure since the cited opening 42 and the split collars 42 merely retain the shaft portions 36 and 58. Thus, claims 1 and 4-6, as amended, are considered to be in allowable form. Applicants' invention as recited in claim 7 is also considered to be in allowable form for the same reasons as discussed in connection with claim 1, as amended.

Accordingly, claims 1 and 4-7, as amended and this application are considered to be in a condition for allowance and a favorable action to that end and allowance of this application by the Examiner are respectfully requested. If the Examiner feels that clarification of any issue or comment herein would be helpful to facilitate prosecution of this application, the Examiner is

respectfully requested to contact the undersigned attorney at the number listed below for a telephonic interview or to arrange a personal interview.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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